

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 EB-11 L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /136 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARP: FMDICKMAN

5/24/73

APPROVED BY NEA/ ARP - MR. DICKMAN

PM/ MAS - DFARNHAM

UR/ NE - MR. FLOYD

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R 241449 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T STATE 099810

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON ARMS SALES TO KUWAIT

REF : STATE 098844

1. UK EMBASSY COUNSELOR MOBERLY AND UK EMBOFF REEVE CALLED ON ARP DIRECTOR DICKMAN MAY 23 TO INQUIRE ABOUT ACCURACY OF WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE DETAILING ARMS PURCHASES KUWAITIS EXPECT TO BUY (REFTEL). AFTER REVIEW-ING HISTORY OF KUWAITI INTEREST IN PURCHASING US ARMS WHICH DATES BACK TO 1971 FOLLOWING TERMINATION BRITISH PROTECTIVE ROLE IN GULF AND ACCENTUATED BY RECENT BORDER ISSUE WITH IRAQ, DICKMAN SAID THAT ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE MENTIONED IN ARTICLE GENERALLY CORRECT EXCEPT FOR TOWS. (NUMBER INVOLVED IS 50 TOW LAUNCHERS). NO CONTRACTS

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HOWEVER HAVE BEEN SIGNED FOR ANY ITEMS. DICKMAN CONFIRMED THAT KUWAITIS WANTED NOT ONLY EQUIPMENT BUT ALSO CONSTRUCTION OF A JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER, A TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND SEVERAL AIRSTRIPS.

2. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS WHETHER US SENDING TEAM TO KUWAIT, DICKMAN SAID NO US TEAM PRESENTLY IN KUWAIT ALTHOUGH ONE WOULD PROBABLY BE SENT SOON TO DISCUSS VARIOUS PROPOSALS WITH GOK IN GREATER DETAIL. IF PROGRAM OF THIS MAGNITUDE SHOULD GET UNDERWAY, IT WOULD OF COURSE

HAVE TO BE PHASED OVER AT LEAST A FIVE YEAR PERIOD GIVEN ITS COMPLEXITY AND PROBLEMS IN TRAINING MANPOWER. RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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